

Applicant : Jerry Harris
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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 38-43 are currently pending in the application of which claims 1, 19, and 26 are independent. Claims 17 and 19-26 have been amended. Claims 38-43 have been added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the action mailed May 6, 2004, is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant traverses the rejection. The Examiner allowed claims 1-18 and 26-30. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 1-18 and 26-30.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to claims 31-37 which were inadvertently listed as "cancelled" in the previous amendment. As the prosecution history clearly indicates, these claims were withdrawn from prosecution pursuant to a restriction requirement mailed May 22, 2003. Therefore, claims 31-37 have been correctly listed above as "withdrawn" in the Listing of Claims.

Section 101 Rejection

Claims 19-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner states that the term "computer program product" alone has no set definition. Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection is not well taken because the phrase "computer program product" is well established in the art. For example, its own database indicates that the Office has issued over seven thousand patents in which the phrase "computer program product" appears in the claims – most recently, U.S. Patent No. 6,766,524, which issued July 20, 2004. However, Applicant has amended claims 19-25 in order to expedite prosecution. The preamble of claim 19 has been amended to recite, in pertinent part, "a computer program tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium." Claims 20-25 have been amended to replace "computer program product" with "computer program" as well as to provide clearer antecedent basis. These amendments do not reduce in any way the scope of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19-25 are in condition for allowance.